

PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OF THE

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on November 30, 2005.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman, Chairman
Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, Vice•Chairperson
Leg. Cameron Alden
Leg. Angie Carpenter (not present)
Leg. Jon Cooper
Leg. William J. Lindsay

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Legislator John M. Kennedy, Jr., Twelfth District
Mea Knapp, Counsel to the Legislature
Alexandra Sullivan, Chief Deputy Clerk
Ronald F. Foley, Commissioner of Parks
Charles Bender, Aide to PO's Office
Ben Zwirn, Assistant Deputy County Executive
Frank Tassone, Aide to Majority Leader
Eric Brown, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman
Greg Moran, Aide to PO's Office

Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
Kevin LaValle, Aide to Leg. Losquadro
Paul Perillie, Aide to Minority Caucus
Vito Minei, Director of Division of Environmental Quality
Ed Hogan, Aide to Leg. Nowick
Terry Pearsall, Aide to Leg. Lindsay
Warren Greene, Aide to Leg. Alden
Barbara LoMoriello, Aide to Leg. Cooper
Nancy J. Duncan
Ronald Parr
Steve Gittleman, Vanderbilt Museum
Lance Mallamo, CEQ

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

(THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 11:16 AM)

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Good morning. I'd like to call this meeting of the Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee to order. If you all will rise and join us for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Kennedy.

(SALUTATION)

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I see we have a stack of speakers cards. Okay. I think I may take some things out of order. I got quite a few people who want to speak on various resolutions. Can I ask there are several resolutions pertaining to appointments? Can I see individuals who are here to be appointed? Just maybe a show of hands. I think I'd like to do that first. So, why don't we start with the woman in the front, if you'll step forward and identify yourself. You can step to •• sit down at the table here in front of one of the microphones. And you are?

MS. DUNCAN:

Okay. My name is Nancy Duncan. And I believe I need to tell you I am 2274•05, resolution.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It's on the third page. This is for Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts.

MS. DUNCAN:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. So, Ms. Duncan, if you could just briefly tell us why you're interested in this position?

MS. DUNCAN:

I'm new to the community. I've been here for about two years. I've devoted my entire life to the arts. And I've spent the last two years getting to know the community. Both Patchogue Theatre •• I happen to be on the board right now. I was appointed in June. The dance community, the Patchogue Medford and how I can be a catalyst to help bridge the different art forms and the community.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Any questions for Ms. Duncan? Okay. I'm going to make a motion for take 2274 out of order. Do I have a second?

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second by Legislator Nowick. All in favor? Any opposed? Okay. **2274 is now in front of us. (To appoint Nancy J. Duncan as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts)** Is there a motion to approve? Motion by Legislator Alden. Yes? And second by Legislator Lindsay •• is the second. Any discussion? Okay. All in favor? Any opposed? **Vote: 5•0•0•1. (Leg. Carpenter not present)** congratulations. Approved. Now, you will not have to come in front of the full Legislature. This resolution will go in front of the Legislature next week on Tuesday. There's no need for you to be there. And I don't see any problem with you going through that step. And then you'll be on the Committee. Okay. Thank you.

MS. DUNCAN:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Mr. Parr, if you'll step forward. **This is resolution 2279 (appointing Ronald Parr as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission)**

For or record, Mr. Parr, could you just identify yourself.

MR. PARR:

Good morning. My name is Ron Parr. And I am here to be considered for the Board of the Vanderbilt Museum.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

A quick background and your interest in serving.

MR. PARR:

For forty years I've been a major developer of Long Island, both residential, office and commercial properties. I've served on many boards and have

been a patron of the museum for many years.

One of my favorite places to go. I can bring with me lifetime of experience in construction, renovations. We've done many historic buildings over the years. And also I have a proven track record in fund raising. And I'm sure I could be a tremendous asset to the Board in many different ways.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Parr? All right. I thank you for your interest. I'd like to bring up Mr. Gittleman who I think is also here to speak on your appointment.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Steve, just speak •• maybe just tilt the microphone up a little bit.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Can you hear me now?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

MR. GITTELMAN:

One of the responsibilities of the board is to raise money and to provide •• basically you have to raise money, provide leadership and give of our time.

The question of raising money is a difficult one for a trustee. Not everybody has the same ability. Not everybody has the same contacts. And so we need the kinds of trustees that are accustomed to the responsibility, accustomed to performing on the board. You have Mr. Parr who not only is my understanding •• I'm not good at doing this apparently •• not only is Mr. Parr an active participant in Dowling College, I want to remind the Legislature that Dowling College is the place where Willy Kay got married ••

this is his father's house. And Mr. Parr has been extremely active in bringing Dowling College back to its current state of fine affairs. And he has •• not only that, he's served on the building and grounds committee for Dowling College, which historically is very important since this is where Willy Kay, our Willy Kay, grew up. That was his house.

So, he's very well rooted. It brings together two Vanderbilt homes in a very special way. It brings to us a trustee, really a star that we haven't had available to us. And I just want support to his candidacy with all my heart. I mean, people need the strength. And I think that you're giving it to us. If you don't give us people of strength, then you can't break my knuckles when I don't raise enough money.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Gittelman. Any questions for Mr. Gittelman or Mr. Parr; Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Hi. And thanks for coming forward. This is a vacant seat on this, it's somebody that's serving on as a holdover?

MR. GITTELMAN:

This is a •• somebody whose term is complete.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. And that person's name is?

MR. GITTELMAN:

Debra Gray.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. She has indicated she doesn't want to serve any more or ••

MR. GITTELMAN:

She hasn't indicated either way.

LEG. ALDEN:

So, nobody's spoken to her?

MR. GITTELMAN:

No.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. I've been to a number of meetings at the Vanderbilt. And I would encourage some of the fellow legislators to show up once in a while, too. And the ones that I've been to Debra Gray seems to participate. And even though if she's a holdover, and I guess that's she's in right now, she seems to be well informed and participating in those •• in the debates and in the work that's, you know, your charged to carry out.

So, I'm just a little bit surprised that no one talked to her about even whether she wanted to serve or not or continue serving. And I believe her attendance has been fairly consistent.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I think that one of the problems I'm •• Debra Gray is •• she's a Director at a hospital. And her ability to fund raise is conflicted because she has primary responsibility for fundraising at her hospital. So, because she has •• one of the •• one of our problems is, is that although she has •• she just •• she cannot fund raise for the museum. It's just one of the things she can't do because it would be a conflict with her employment.

LEG. ALDEN:

And has somebody had that conversation with her?

MR. GITTELMAN:

Yes. But, you know, it's just something that •• one of the problems I have is trying to encourage trustees to fundraise. And when you have people of means who don't contribute, it's sets •• it kind of lets everyone free to take a take a back seat. And Debra Gray is clearly someone of great means financially. But by her record of contribution, you know, certainly we don't have a record we can turn that's commensurate with her ability.

LEG. ALDEN:

I just feel a little bad then that, you know, we're faced with •• and it's a dilemma for me because, number one, I don't believe in assassination. And without somebody speaking to her and going through all that, I think, that right now she's probably not aware that there's a resolution on to replace her. Is that a fair statement?

MR. GITTELMAN:

I don't know.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah, you don't know one way or the other; okay. I feel very uncomfortable with that.

LEG. NOWICK:

May I?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just to clear up a few matters. Debra Gray's appointment is expiring. And putting somebody else on the Vanderbilt doesn't mean that this woman performed any less. It's just sometimes it's time in an organization's life span to make some changes and changes for the better. And in this case we are Legislators that have a responsibility to Vanderbilt Museum to do the very best we can.

This does not mean the woman that served was not a good trustee. I'm sure she was excellent. I'm sure she was very dedicated. I'm sure she showed up at meetings. But our responsibility as Legislators is to appoint somebody to the Vanderbilt that can do the job for the Vanderbilt, whether it be fundraising or ideas or •• and I might add if we look at Ron Parr's resume, and, again, I would like to say that this candidate for this trusteeship is so far •• certainly has the background. If we look at the

resume, he's won of awards from the Suffolk District of the Boy Scouts of America. And he was a recipient of the Dowling College Distinguished Citizens Award and received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Dowling College. Mr. Parr received the distinguished Community Service award from Touro College. He was named outstanding Long Island Business Developer; was given the annual Joseph _Giacone_ Award by the Long Island Mid•Suffolk Business Action Group and on and on and on. A trustee of Dowling College which in your words was a college that was very strong in historical background.

So, what I'm trying to say here is that Mr. Parr has the ability to work with Vanderbilt and put all of his efforts and help us with fundraising and also his own active interest. So, again, putting Mr. Parr in, does not lessen what Debra Gray did. And certainly we can thank her for a very, very good tenure with us. But sometimes it's time to move on.

MR. GITTELMAN:

We need trustees who can help us to raise money. And if we don't get them, then, it's hard to expect us to deliver on the promise that the Board will do that. And I agree with you; that sometimes we have to trade, if you will •• we have to replace one trustee with another. It's been common practice. There's no •• there's plenty of precedents. There's plenty of trustees who have been replaced over the years. I don't think the last ten have been given notice of any sort. They're just replaced.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Other questions?

LEG. COOPER:

Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

Not really a question but more of a comment. I've served on a number of boards myself over the years. And probably I'd have to admit that the major contribution that I made to the boards that I did serve on was my ability to •• was my ability to raise funds. And I think that's always a critical

attribute of any perspective board member.

And I know that Debra Gray had contributions to make to the Board. I'm sure she gave it her full effort, but if she didn't fundraise to the extent that was required, then, for me that alone is justification for replacing her with someone who has greater fundraising abilities. And obviously Ron Parr has much more to offer. But for me that's probably the overriding concern.

LEG. ALDEN:

Through the Chair.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

In case there's a little bit of, you know, cloud over my position, I think that Ron Parr would be an excellent choice to put on the board. And I wholeheartedly support that. The thing I don't support is the process.

If Debra Gray doesn't even know that, you know, there's another resolution in to replace her, I think that that's an improper way. If I was a volunteer •
• if you were a volunteer, Jon, on a board and you gave your time and effort and everything else, you showed up and you did whatever it was you could contribute, I think, the least is, you know, that should be shown to towards that person is thank you. Not a gold watch, but thank you and also, by the way, you know, you're up for reappointment. We're not going to reappoint you. At least have the discussion with the person, you know, before you go and do something. That's my point on that.

Mr. Parr, I'm very, very familiar with as far as his developmental skills, his fundraising skills and everything else. I think he's great at all those. He excels very well and would be a very, very valuable addition to the Vanderbilt Board. But I still think that the process should be that, you know, you tell Debra Gray that, you know, thank you for serving and we feel that we want to go in a different direction and we want Mr. Parr to come on the board. That's what I feel should have happened.

LEG. NOWICK:

Through the Chair?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yeah. I just want to say that this is really discussion that should come up when we discuss the actual resolution. Right now we're talking about Mr. Parr and his merits for the position, which, I think, are clear.

LEG. NOWICK:

I just wanted to make a point on the record, also.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

If we can wrap it up.

LEG. NOWICK:

And, you know, yes, Legislator Alden, you are right about that. And maybe that wasn't the way as Mr. Gittelman has said that many times that this has happened where the trustee didn't know about it, didn't realize that it was going to be somebody else filling the shoes. And maybe in the future that would be the way to go.

Right now I just don't want to lose a very, very valuable volunteer. I don't want the Vanderbilt to lose that. So maybe in the future that is the way we have to go. But ••

MR. GITTELMAN:

It's never been done before, Legislator Alden. I can't recall any time when that courtesy was extended.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, I would be very insulted if I took my time and served as a volunteer on any board and was just like shown no courtesy at all. And that's all it is; a small amount of courtesy, a small amount of recognition for, you know, thank you for serving. If they did it without distinction, then you even have a better •• whatever you want call it •• base to go and tell the person, look, this is what we wanted, this is what we expected. You haven't lived up to

that and we're going to replace you.

If they've actually taken the time out of their lives to come up there and attend the meetings and to serve on that Board, then, I think that, you know, something's owed as far as just a decency, human decency and courtesy to them. That's pretty simple as far as I'm concerned.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. All right. We'll continue. I just want to say one thing on this issue because this comes up all the time. People are appointed not for life but for a specific term. And when that •• when they served their term, there should be no expectation that they're automatically going to be reappointed. It's good, I think, on boards to have some, you know, change of personnel so you get new ideas, fresh ideas. And just to replace somebody doesn't mean that they didn't do an excellent job. It's just so that you can have some other people in the community have an opportunity to serve the community.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, I'm glad you stated that, Jay, because, you know what? If you were a volunteer, and you held over because nobody was put into your place or whatever or you were coming up for reappointment, I think you you would expect somebody to talk to you if you were going to be replaced. I think you would •• as a matter of fact, I think you would demand that small amount of courtesy, just come up and tell me you're not going to ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I agree.

LEG. ALDEN:

•• you're not going to ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I think the courtesy is important. Somebody should tell you. I agree.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just one question. Did Miss Gray come to you and ask for a

reappointment?

MR. GITTELMAN:

No.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. I have Legislator Lindsay next; and then Legislator Cooper.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Well, just •• I kind of agree a little bit with Legislator Alden. It's always nice to talk to people and to thank them for their service. Was Miss Gray, was her attendance at board meetings exemplary?

MR. GITTELMAN:

Her attendance was fine.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. My suggestion, and it goes back to a bill that I had last year that everybody have an appointment by their district, I think, makes some sense in this situation. But since we don't have that, and everybody's that at large appointee, it's my understanding that we have some people on the board that their attendance record is not good. And maybe we should look at replacing some of them and putting Miss Gray back on the board if that's the wish of Legislator Alden, who does have an exemplary attendance record. And at the same time appoint Mr. Parr.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Mr. Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

I also don't want to really belabor this further, but we had another instance a few months ago where it wasn't a Vanderbilt Board, it was CEQ, where Adrienne Esposito was replaced on the CEQ board. And it also came to light that no one thanked her for the time that she spent on the board. And it

was quite controversial here. But many of my colleagues had no problem voting in effect to remove Adrienne Esposito even though she was never thanked for her years of service.

So, if we're going •• if this is a new policy, that all the existing board members should be approached when the term expired and thanked for their service and asked whether they'd to serve again, then, we've got to apply it uniformly to all the boards across the County. And it certainly has not been done historically. So ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Is that the presiding officer •• whose job ••

LEG. ALDEN:

May I response, Jon?

LEG. COOPER:

I guess the head of each board.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

The head of the board?

LEG. ALDEN:

Through the Chair, may I respond to Legislator Cooper?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes, you may.

LEG. ALDEN:

Adrienne had all kinds of advance knowledge that there was a move to replace her. And a lot of us did thank her on the record for her service at a Legislative hearing. So she •• there's a little bit of a distinction I can draw between what happend right now and what happened to Adrienne Esposito. But, Jon, I think that it should be a uniform policy that if somebody served and has attended, no matter what board it is, especially as a volunteer, the least that can happen is, you know, thank you and we're not going to replace you. And you can even stop right there. You don't have to give

them an explanation or anything; but, you know, at least a thank you and the decency just to let them know.

The problem here is, if we do this today, who's contacted Debra Gray? And what is she going to do? Read about it in the paper that, you know, she was replaced on the Vanderbilt Museum Board? Thank you. That's ••

LEG. COOPER:

I think that Jay should call her. No, I was being facetious. No, I was just joking.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I could call her. Never met her. Okay. Any other questions for Mr. Parr or Mr. Gittelman? All right. Let's take this one out of order as well. I'll make a motion to take 2279 out of order

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, let me •• motion to take it out of order first. Do I have a second on that?

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Just a clarification on this.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

A second by Legislator Nowick. On the motion, Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

If this resolution is approved, will somebody please exercise the courtesy of calling Ms. Gray and to inform her that she's •• could we have committment?

MR. GITTELMAN:

We always thank trustees for their service. We have a tradition of giving them a fish. A fish. And what it is is that Mr. Vanderbilt had an artist name _Valenski_ . And we like to like to acknowledge every trustee that's served a term with a •• you know, coming back and being thanked. It's just something we do.

LEG. LINDSAY:

That isn't exactly what I'm asking. Would you take it on your effort to call Ms. Gray and inform her that •• I think when she gets the Fish ••

LEG. COOPER:

•• she'll get the message.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Well, before she gets the fish and before she reads about it in the paper. I'm thinking about today.

LEG. ALDEN:

Legislator Lindsay, I got a fish before the last time I ran for re election from the Vanderbilt.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It was wrapped in newspaper, though; right?

MR. GITTELMAN:

Just so know they are fish; right?

LEG. ALDEN:

Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. If there was a motion and a second to take this resolution out of order. All in favor? Any opposed? Okay. **Resolution 2279** is now in front of us. **(Appointing Ronald Parr as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission)**

LEG. NOWICK:

I make a motion to approve.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There was a motion to approve by Legislator Nowick, second by Legislator Cooper. Any discussion?

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah. I just want to reiterate what Legislator Lindsay asked for because ••

LEG. NOWICK:

I agree.

LEG. ALDEN:

This is not right. If we go and pass this and Ms. Gray hasn't even been spoken to, that's just •• in my mind that's just a slap in the face to somebody that has taken and given of their own time and uncompensated. So ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, if that's not done before Tuesday, then, I'll support a tabling motion on the floor to do it. But if we could discharge it now, give Mr. Gittelman the opportunity to reach out if Ms. Gray before Tuesday's vote. Okay?

LEG. ALDEN:

Is she •• can we contact her right now? Do you have a ••

MR. GITTELMAN:

No, I don't have access to her right now.

LEG. ALDEN:

You said she works over in the hospital in Nassau County; right?

MR. GITTELMAN:

I don't have her phone number with me. I, you know, I will be glad to contact her upon ••

LEG. ALDEN:

In that regard I feel real uncomfortable. I feel very comfortable with Mr. Parr going in there. As a matter of fact, I'm •• you know, I feel honored that he would even want to •• be willing to give up his time because he's a very busy man. But I feel very uncomfortable without her being told first that we're going to do this to her.

LEG. NOWICK:

We're not going to do it 'til Tuesday.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, we're doing it right now. That's what the vote is.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, just discharges it to the Legislature.

LEG. ALDEN:

You voted to approve this.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Out of committee. Approved out of committee.

LEG. ALDEN:

Right. I feel very uncomfortable ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There'll be another vote on the floor.

LEG. ALDEN:

We're going to be here for a while. If somebody gives me the number, I'll call her. This isn't right.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. And let me ask you, are you not prepared at this moment to support this resolution?

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm going to abstain then. That's what you're going to force.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Allright. What about discharging without a recommendation?

LEG. ALDEN:

If you do that, that's fine.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. I'll make a motion to discharge without recommendation. Is there a second?

LEG. COOPER:

I just think that sends the wrong message but if that's the only way to get •
• I mean this is ••

LEG. ALDEN:

It doesn't send the wrong message. If you're a service volunteer, you have the right to be told.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Before the end of the session ••

LEG. COOPER:

But this has never •• in my six years in the Legislature, this has never come up with any board, ever. And maybe it's a great policy and it may be nice to do, but it's never been a condition before for an appointment. I think it's ••

I just don't think this is the right time.

MR. GITTELMAN:

You have never done this for any trustee at the Vanderbilt Museum in my sixteen years there.

LEG. ALDEN:

I think on the record it sets a very bad precedent if we did it, because it's already come out in testimony that we never had a discussion with her, never asked her •• never informed her that we're going to go in a different direction. And for somebody that's volunteered and given up their time, I think that that's a wrong message to send.

As a matter of fact, it's the wrong message to send to society when we're looking for people to come forward and serve on some of our boards.

MR. GITTELMAN:

It just strikes me, then that all of a sudden Debra Gray is the first exception.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, if that's the first exception, then shame on us, because we've been treating people that have given their time and their efforts for us and for the people of Suffolk County without even acknowledging their efforts. So, shame on us.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Mr. Gittelman, I have your word that you'll contact her before Tuesday; is that correct?

MR. GITTELMAN:

Absolutely. Yes.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

So, although I prefer not to discharge without recommendation because I feel strongly that Mr. Parr will make an excellent addition to the Vanderbilt

Board, I do believe that without Legislator Alden, we don't have enough votes to discharge it today.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just put it off for a few minutes and I'll get her number and I'll call her.

LEG. NOWICK:

All right. Let him call.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Do we have four votes to approve? Can I hear from Mr. •• Legislator Lindsay on whether he can participate on this?

LEG. LINDSAY:

I have to abstain.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

You have to abstain. Okay. So, what to do.

LEG. NOWICK:

We can discharge without recommendation.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Why don't we pass •• let's pass over it if for a •• why don't we discharge without recommendation?

LEG. ALDEN:

I'd prefer not to send the wrong message. We like Mr. Parr, but I also want Ms. Gray to know before we do that.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

We need four votes. I'm sorry. All right. Why don't we pass over it for the moment; we'll come back to it.

LEG. NOWICK:

Are we going to call her?

LEG. ALDEN:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Alden is goint to ••

MR. GITTELMAN:

I personally don't have it with me.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

We have plenty of people who want to speak. There's plenty of time for you to make a phone call. So, thank you for patience, Mr. Parr, and hopefully we'll get back to this shortly.

LEG. NOWICK:

I'm looking for a phone number.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. And we're going to go back to public portion. I have quite a number of cards. I have few actually on that last subject of Vanderbilt. I'm sorry? I have a few who •• I have two cards on Vanderbilt, so if we can stay with that theme I'd like to call Lance Mallamo forward. I'm sorry. Is there another •• all right. I'm sorry. Let's do the other reappointment. Who is the next reappointment?

MR. GITTELMAN:

Mr. Rogers.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Sir, if you'll step forward. Would you identify yourself for our record?

MR. ROGERS:

Good morning. I'm William Rogers, presently a member of the Board of the Vanderbilt Museum. I have been there for four years. Looking forward to help complete some of the projects that we started. I was instrumental in bringing in the dinosaur group. I made a commitment to see that the Dinosaur Society is established at the Vanderbilt Museum. And hopefully

waiting when we have a permanent building so we can move the exhibits in there. And I'm very interested in •• I've attended all the meetings. And I think we've accomplished a great deal. And I'd like to continue to do this 'til we see the dinosaur exhibit set up where all the children and everybody in Suffolk County can enjoy it.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Any questions for Mr. Rogers?

LEG. LINDSAY:

No.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Let me see which resolution this is.

LEG. LINDSAY:

To put it on the record, Mr. Rogers, I for one on this Committee would like to thank you for your many years of service to the museum.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I as well would like to thank you for your many years of service. This is resolution **2280, (Reappointing William B. Rogers as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission)** I'm just waiting for a quorum so I can take this out of order and we can make a motion to reappoint you.

All right. So, I'd like to make a motion to take 2080 out of order, second by Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? Any oppose? **2280 is now before us.** Is there a motion to reappoint Mr. Rogers? Motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Any opposed? **2280 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)** Thank you, sir.

MR. ROGERS:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

We will make them aware of our recommendation. Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:

Did somebody thank him for his generosity and his time?

LEG. LINDSAY:

I did. I just did when you weren't in the room.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. All right, Bill, thanks.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

We did. Are there any other appointments in front of us?

PUBLIC PORTION

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. So, now I want to go back to the public portion now. We have several speakers. I want to stick with Vanderbilt for a minute. So, Mr. Mallamo, if you'll come forward.

MR. MALLAMO:

Thank you, Legislator Schneiderman. I'm just here to speak on resolution 2207. Perhaps when you get to that resolution, you may have questions. I'm here to answer any questions you may have on that.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay.

MR. MALLAMO:

That's renewing our investment policy for the year. I'm here every December asking for this renewal to maintain our monthly income to the

museum from our endowment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Mallamo.

I'd like to call next Tom Williams from Cornell Cooperative.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm speaking on Introductory Resolution 2193 to continue the agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension to administer and operate Peconic Dunes Camp.

As you know, the camp is part of the Suffolk County park system. And has been operated by Cornell Cooperative Extension for the last three years. We provide a summer camp opportunity. For this year we had 722 kids there for an overnight experience participating in basketball, kayaking, soccer, softball, swimming, etcetera, outdoor activities, environmental activities.

We also sponsor Camp Seawolf which is in cooperation with Stony Brook for the Marine Center; Marine Sciences Center and the innovation and educational program there. The summer program is for kids eight to fifteen. And we've had a wonderful time operating the camp the last three years.

We recruit staff who are dedicated, who are teachers, who are environmental educators, carefully screened college students. They are certified by the Red Cross for water instruction. And we also •• we meet a lot of requirements that the Health Department puts on camps in the County.

We've also been able to provide a variety of off•season programs for various groups. This year we had the Youth Enrichment Services from Bay Shore who came for a three•day session where they did a Natural Helpers Peer Leadership Program. We've had St. Johns Youth Ministry had a retreat there. Girl Scout Troop 594. And we opened the park up to a number of different groups who come there and enjoy the beautiful setting and participate in programming.

It is also a site where we've been operating our project SOAR which is our juvenile day reporting center. We provide environmental stewardship as a methodology to teach reading, writing and arithmetic to about 20 kids who are referred to us from the Suffolk County Family Court, Judge (Fronlich).

We teach them environmental education. We teach them things like geo positioning. They will build a wood duck box nesting center. They will place it in a wetland. They will locate that wetland with a GPS system. They will do water quality sampling and monitoring. And it's been an exciting program for us. And the dunes has been a wonderful setting.

We have been doing a lot of maintenance. The camp needs a lot of attention. And working with Suffolk County Parks Department, we've done a lot of maintenance of a variety of buildings. We continue to do that.

We have also established a community advisory committee made up of some individuals who live in the immediate community. A member of the Parks Trustee is part of that Committee. DEC is part of it. And we look to that committee to assist us in developing programs in the environment and youth development programs.

We have also applied for accreditation credit from the American Camp Association, which is a rigorous process. They look at a wide variety of factors on whether camps meet everything from food quality to safe buildings to responsible programming. And we got a letter just the other day that we received that accreditation from the American Camp Association. So, we're very pleased about that.

We have done evaluations with the children who attend the camp. And one of the questions is what is your worst experience at camp? And for many of the kids they have responded that the worst experience is that they have to leave at the end of their session.

So, we've had a wonderful time running the camp. We're excited about it. We're excited about new initiatives. We're very pleased to work with Ron Foley and his staff in the Parks Department. And we are hopeful that we

can continue to operate the camp.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Williams. Can I ask is there any •• thank you. Good day. Any questions for Mr. Williams?

Is Mr. Dawson •• this is one other appointment we have as a park trustee. Is Mr. Dawson here? Okay. He is not. Let me also state for the record that Legislator Carpenter has an excused absence from this meeting. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah. Mr. Dawson is a resolution that I'm sponsoring. And I neglected to inform him about the meeting today.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

We'll have him at the next meeting. Do you want to notify him, Mr. Chairman, or would you like us to notify him? I don't really know him. Park Trustees are the suggestion of the Supervisor. It was the Supervisor of the Town of Islip that recommended Mr. Dawson. But we will make an effort to locate him and contact him.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

If you would, I would appreciate that. We will •• my office will also reach out and let him know.

Okay. I have quite a number of cards all on the trap and skeet. And I have one card on the Southaven Park Stables. So let me just do the Southaven Park Stables, then the rest our speakers can stay with the topic of reopening the trap and skeet.

Wendy Burling, is she still here?

MS. BURLING:

Good morning. This is short notice for me so I'm kind of unprepared. But I'm part of the horse community. I'm also a board member of the Islip Horsemens Association. And I'm on the Horse Advisory for Southaven Parks.

Southaven is a county park facility stable is a necessary thing. And I think we all hate to see us lose that. Whether we go with a large facility or a very basic, I think, it's well needed. It's where many people start out with their horses. They take lessons there. They go on trail rides, small shows, eventually owning their own horse.

The horse industry on Long Island is huge. Between vets, farriers, horse feed, fencing, barns, the whole •• it's a big business. And I think Southaven, we need to keep that stable. That's basically all I have to say at this point, but thank you and I hope •• I assume this on monies being given to build Southaven. And that's what I'm here for. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Thank you.

Kathleen Marshall.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Excuse me. I haven't submitted a card but I do have a few comments on the Southaven proposal if I can make those?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Which aspect? The horse stables or the trap and skeet?

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

The horse stables. The topic we're talking about now.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. I'm going to ask you to fill out a card.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. And we'll have to come back to that.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Kathleen Marshall.

MS. MARSHALL:

Good morning. My name is Kathleen Marshall. I just want the Legislature to know that I'm here today to show my support in the reopening of the Suffolk Trap and Skeet facility.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Thank you.

MS. MARSHALL:

Thank you, Ms. Marshall. John Cushman.

MR. CUSHMAN:

Good morning, Chairman Schneiderman, members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity. I'm here to support resolution 2216•05 specifically to reopen the Suffolk County Trap and Skeet Range. I think this Committee and the Legislature and the people have gone through the last couple of years being extremely thorough and redundant in many cases in making sure that this facility gets reopened as soon as possible and generating revenue to the County.

If I may, I would like to also speak rather than come up again at a second time and support resolution 2228•05, which is the ratification of the contract for a vendor to actually run that facility. I was privy by invitation of the County Executive to attend that meeting and those hearings and discussions

that lasted for years going over all of the details and minutia of the proposal, which everybody found acceptable and was approved.

And I would just urge that as John Cushman, Patchogue, New York. I am the representative of the Sportsmans Association for Firearms Education. If you have any questions, please ask, otherwise, thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Cushman.

Bill Raab or Raab, man who I recall needs no microphone.

MR. RAAB:

That's right. But I'll use it anyway. I also was privy to the meeting in developing these proposals for the trap and skeet. And I'd like to also support both resolutions to try to get the funds necessary to get the range back in full operation so that we can all go and enjoy it, and the county can continue to reap the benefit that it has in the past.

I'd like to thank you, Legislator Schneiderman. I'd like to thank everybody for their time. And basically let's get it done and let's get it back to you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you, Bill. Robert Nicosia.

MR. NICOSIA:

Good morning. My name is Robert Nicosia. I am the Chief for the Wantagh Fire Department representing my members in excess of 250. And we are emphatically in favor of reopening Suffolk County Trap and Skeet. Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you. Forgive me if I mispronounce this. Mark Wrobel.

MR. WROOBEL:

Wroobel. Good morning. My name is Mark Wroobel. I represent Hunter Sports who has been awarded the RFP by Suffolk County. I am just here to state that I am ready and prepared to 100% go forward with this. I'm hoping that you pass both resolution 2228•05 and 2216 today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Any questions for Mr. Wroobel? Thank you, sir.

Johan McConnell.

MS. McCONNELL:

My name is Johan McConnell. And I'm President of the South Yaphank Civic Association. Good morning. And I appreciate you letting us speak at this meeting.

The South Yaphank Civic Association was established to service a community voice for the area residents. As put fourth in our mission statement, two of our major goals are to advocate for residence input in all decisions affecting our community and to ensure the safety of our neighborhoods. It is our desire to work collaboratively with elective officials to reach this point.

One of the major concerns of the community is the possible reopening of the trap and skeet range which has been closed for four years. When the facility was originally built during the 1970's the area was mostly vacant woods. Since that time the area has changed to one of a residential community.

The range is no longer an isolated entity. Based upon the study prepared by _Elkane McLean_ Associates, August 2004, it was an analysis of the noise and lead mitigation at the Suffolk Trap and Skeet Range. And I'd like to quote from that.

First of all in the pages of conclusion "in the addition to the physical remediation of the site, it is strongly recommended that a written environmental stewardship plan be prepared for future range operation."

VSP is a document that describes environmental activities conducted on the site todate and presents a plan for an ongoing environmental practices and

future management of the site. It will be a significant aid in discouraging illegal •• it would be a significant aide in discouraging legal and recreatory actions. It should be developed in accordance with the guidance and recommendations provided by the EPA's BP and Manual. An acceptable format for such a document has been produced by and is available for the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

It is our •• my question is has an environmental stewardship plan been prepared for this site based upon the recommendations and conclusions from a study that was commissioned by Suffolk County? That's one.

Another conclusion •• there's a a discussion in the report on noise mitigation. Of the 17 foot high wall it would be approximately 1,850 long. The study states basically that depending on the conditions of the day, depending on the direction in which the shooters are shooting, especially at the sporting clays in which they aim upwards, that the wall would not mitigate the sound. The cost of the wall as recommended in the study would grow wall seven, eight, nine and ten. The beginning costs for wall seven is \$750,000. The continuation of the cost of the walls escalates to a cost of one million dollars. Based upon a question and answers that was prepared by the County Parks Department, the question is, what is the County going to do regarding noise mitigation? The County has no plans to provide noise mitigation at the site.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Ma'am, can I just say the three minutes is up. So, if you can just kind of summarize or finalize your comments ••

MS. McCONNELL:

All right. I have two questions. On the resolution that's now before you, you are requesting \$300,000; \$20,000 to be approved for planning; and \$280 thousand on noise mitigation, environmental restoration and repairs. Is this in addition to resolution IR 22448, December 21st, 2004 that approved \$450,000 for this same thing? And if it is, you mean to tell me that the Committee and the Legislators are prepared for spend \$750,000 on the trap and skeet with a possible revenue return of about \$30,000 which was quoted to us by Executive Levy when the Civic Association had a private

meeting with him? And that's my question. I need to know exactly how much is being planned to be spent on this.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

You said you had two questions? Or did you have one? It was one question.

MS. McCONNELL:

Well, basically I'd like to know exactly the total costs in the two resolutions that is going to be spent on the noise mitigation for the trap and skeet?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Let me bring the Park Commissioner Ron Foley forward who has far more details on this than I would.

LEG. ALDEN:

Mr. Chairman, you also might want to just put on the record how much it would cost if we abandon this; how much the cost of remediation would be, which I understand is like millions and millions of dollars.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, then you just put it on the record.

MS. McCONNELL:

Actually it's my understanding it's only millions and millions of dollars if you try to put another facility in there. If you leave it as empty property, it does not cost the County anything to remediate the lead.

LEG. ALDEN:

My understanding is you have to clean it up if we abandon it, buy, you know, we can get into that later.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Let's stop the back and forth. If I can hear from the Parks Commissioner or we could hear from the Parks Commissioner. Commissioner Foley, thank you.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Good morning. How can I help you?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, you can attempt to answer Johan McConnell's question.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

The appropriating resolution is appropriating money that's in the multi-year capital program that you've previously approved. The cumulative dollar amount over several years would be about a million dollars. So, this is not a new thing. It's just appropriating the capital program as you've already reviewed and approved it.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Does that answer your question?

MS. McCONNELL:

Yes. You are prepared to spend a million dollars? Let me ask on what?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We're not exactly •• we haven't settled on all the details. We're going to do the best we can to minimize noise without building a wall. We've already alerted Mr. Wrooble who is the selected operator that some of the stations may have to be moved to minimize noise. And that we may have construct some new types of shooting games to make the place operable in being the best neighbor we can be.

MS. McCONNELL:

And actually according to your own analysis •• you've had two analysis done on noise mitigation. And both analysis state that that can't happen.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yeah. Thank you, Ma'am. Okay.

All right. Our next John McConnell. Why don't you stay there, Commissioner, just in case there are other questions.

MR. McCONNELL:

Hi. Good morning.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

You have three minutes.

MR. McCONNELL:

Okay. My name is John McConnell. Also a member of the South Yaphank Civic Association. Okay. When we moved to Yaphank about five years ago, the trap and skeet was open for a short while. We heard it was going to close. So, that's one of the reasons why we moved. We love the area.

However, in the four years that it has been closed, approximately eighty new homes have been constructed. The residents were told that the range was closed. So, their decision to purchase was based on that. They didn't know anything about the trap and skeet.

Actually the same information was told to the residents living on Leslie Lane and John Court, streets directly across from the range. This was many, many years ago. They said the range was going to close. And people have been coming here, you know, asking questions, whatever for ten years. More than ten years.

The residents living in the area of the range have experienced four years of quiet, decreased traffic on Gerard Road and the use of Southaven Park without hearing gunshots. I'm in Southaven Park. I live about half a mile, a mile up the road. I'm there quite a bit walking •• walking dogs, riding my bike, cross country skiing. And it's been great.

We're concerned that its reopening will subject us once again to an intrusive and seemingly endless barrage of gun fire. We heard very loud even though we're about a mile away.

We ask you to vote no to the reopening of the trap and skeet. We don't want an 18 foot wall like the Expressway right down the road from us. Lot of noise.

Now, the County has spent probably about \$50,000 on the building already.

Although the County Executive said at a meeting of the civic groups that he wasn't going to do anything unless he resolves the difference with the noise with the Town of Brookhaven. So. I don't know where that came from. And you haven't spent a penny on the stables. The stables got a big sign there for about five months "under renovation." Nothing has been done. But yet you're rushing here and getting money to reopen the trap and skeet. Nothing on the stables. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

We have one question, sir, if you'll remain at the podium for one moment. Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Hi. When you started your statement, you said they told you or •• who was it that told you?

MR. McCONNELL:

No. We heard •• it was in the •• people in the neighborhood were saying it. The builders and other people were saying that the range is going to close. The lease is going to ••

LEG. ALDEN:

The builder who had an economic stake in this, he wanted to maximize ••

MR. McCONNELL:

Yeah, but other people said it. It wasn't just the builder. Because the builder told these other people 12 years ago that it was going to close, too; a different builder.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, he lied then too.

MR. McCONNELL:

I understand where builders are coming from. Okay? But people •• there was, you know, talk in the neighborhood that it was going to close. So, I did not rely on the builder because we had many fights with our builder. We had to take him •• we had to go to Town many times to argue over a whole

bunch of stuff. So, I certainly did not believe •• if that's where you're getting at •• I certainly did not believe the builder. I did not count on the builder.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. Because like if I was going to go out and buy a house, I think, that I would want to do my own due diligence before I relied on a builder telling me something like, for instance ••

MR. McCONNELL:

I just said I didn't rely on the builder.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. But then you're relying on a rumor that was started by the builder. I can't think of anything that was a governmental issue that went out there and told the people in that area that we're going to close the range. The range has been there for a whole long time.

MR. McCONNELL:

We knew about the range anyway that •• first of all, we knew about this •• hold it.

LEG. ALDEN:

You knew there was a range there, right? When you bought your house?

MR. McCONNELL:

That he wasn't •• that he wasn't paid his rent. He was •• you know, why did he get closed out? He didn't clean up the area. It was six •• wasn't he six months behind on the rent?

LEG. ALDEN:

Right.

MR. McCONNELL:

He didn't pay. So that's approximately the six months that was ••

LEG. ALDEN:

But that's a different issue though than if somebody tells me that a range is going to close.

MR. McCONNELL:

It's not the builder. You can't say the builder started the rumor. Don't say that. Don't tell me that. Excuse me.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, that's why I was asking you where you got your information. You said they said.

MS. McCONNELL:

People in the neighborhood who have lived there longer than I have. My three minutes are not up, I guess; right? I'm still talking because you want to pin me down on what? On the builder's rumor?

LEG. ALDEN:

No. I asked you a simple question.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'm about to end this anyway because it's not relevant to today's decision. If he was misled by a developer or some people were misled by a developer, it's not going to affect our decision whether ••

LEG. ALDEN:

My question was pretty clear. Who. Was it a government official? Was it a government leader?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

But there was never a decision to close the trap and skeet facility. There was a decision to clean up the facility, to do noise mitigation; which meant that it had to be closed for a short period of time. But there was never •• we're getting rid of the trap and skeet facility. And if somebody made you feel that way, then they've misled you. Okay.

MS. McCONNELL:

Are you're talking about bringing revenue in, \$30,000? Come one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. Richard Snizek.

MR. SNIZEK:

My name is Rich Snizek. I'm a Nassau County resident. I appreciate the time you're giving me to address the Committee. I apologize for my attire. Rather short notice here.

I am here to support the two resolutions for the trap and skeet range to reopen. It has been there for many, many years. It was there •• many of these houses were built while it was open. Everybody knew it was there when they built it. And I know they want to complain now, but I think it •• it was there. And I say due diligence should have been their decision.

I don't know if you're aware, Nassau County does not have a public trap and skeet range. You have to belong to an expensive private club in order to be able to do that. So, we appreciate this range reopening even the Nassau County residents as you're probably aware from Robert Cushman coming up and speaking.

I would also like to add that the vendor that you approved, Mark Wrobbel, through my last position as Commanding Officer of the Pistol License section, Nassau County Police Department, had many opportunities to deal with Mark. And he is an outstanding person, a good businessman, successful businessman and will do a fine job at the range. Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

John Palasek.

MR. PALASEK:

Hi. My name is John Palasek, resident in the area. I'm against the

reopening of the range. And first let me clarify something about due diligence. When I moved in in 1992, I did just that. I was told the same thing; that the range was closing in 1995. Not closing but relocating to a point behind the police precinct on Yaphank Avenue. It was going to be combined as a combination public shooting range and a police shooting range.

I called the Parks Department who verified that. I called the Police Department who verified that. So, that is basically the story of the closure aspect. And this was 1995. In fact, in 1995 we were called to the shooting range for a public meeting to be introduced to the new owners. And we were told at that point that they were not relocating and that they were going to reestablish at that point. Okay. So, this was a real deal at one time. This was not somebody's fantasy or it wasn't a story of a builder.

Secondly, for the nine years •• I've been in the neighborhood for 13 years. For the nine years I've lived there prior to the closure of the range. There have been a laundry list of promises made by Suffolk County regarding noise mitigation, none of which have ever seen the light of day. And as far as I'm concerned, this proposal that's before you now, the two resolutions don't the address this issue either.

It's been proven in your own study that even a 17 foot wall will not significantly mitigate all of the sound coming from this range. Therefore, either you lose the sporting place, which are the primary source or the loudest noises, or you eliminate the entire thing altogether.

As far as I'm concerned, this is now a residential community of 300 plus houses. It was always zoned as residential. As far as the who was here first argument goes, it was the range that was built in a residentially zoned area. The area's been residentially zoned since 1901. So, as far as who was here first, that's a suspicious argument at best.

As far as the neighborhood as it exists now, 300 plus houses and four years of peace and quiet, in my opinion, have •• let's say in my observation •• I've seen that this neighborhood has blossomed as far as an outdoor activity area.

Prior to the closing of the range outdoor activity was minimal. People are now enjoying what is now piece and quiet. And it is something that I believe we'll have a right to in our on backyard. The people who come here to shoot at the range can make the noise that they want to make and go home to their quiet backyards when they're done. So, why is it that they have the right to quiet but we don't?

If something can be done on a large enough scale to mitigate this sound efficiently and effectively, which would start with the 17 foot wall and would probably have to extend from there. First of all, an expenditure of over a million dollars would be required and a commitment by Suffolk County to follow through on it. Promises, promises have been coming down the pike for years and not one of them has ever been realized. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you. Maybe the Park Commissioner can respond to whether there was a decision at one point to close this or move this facility? Do you know anything about that?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

That's the first time I've heard that. The sequence of events, as I understand them, where it was closed •• well, there was an operator in there who failed to make the contractually required payments, and that was because of a default on the contract was removed. That removal was immediately followed by a request for proposal process to find a new operator. Only one firm bid on that and then he later withdraw his bid. And the goal has been to get the place operating again ever since then in some way.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Thank you, Commissioner. All right.

Next speaker, Marc Weinstein.

MR. WEINSTEIN:

Good morning. My name is Marc Weinstein. And I'm here also to support both resolutions of the opening of the range. And it was short notice that this all came down. And I really didn't have much to say at the time until this thing started going on now.

There are no places for us to shoot. I lived in Nassau county. I lived near the Freeport range. Believe me, in distance of hearing the PBA practice day and night, that noise isn't that bad compared to the Long Island Railroad and half the time the Long Island Expressway that I go by.

It's just ridiculous at this point that people are trying to push us out of Nassau County and Suffolk County and out of New York State totally. And it goes way beyond noise abatement and the ability for where people are living because I've been to Pennsylvania, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana; plenty of places where ranges are 1,000 yards to 2000 yards from communities. And there are no complaints about that. So, this goes a lot further than just wanting a range closed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. Thank you, Mr. Weinstein. Warren Wroobel.

MR. WROOBEL:

My name is Warren Wroobel. And I'm here to support both resolutions for the opening of the trap and skeet. As you can tell by my last name, I'm related to Marc. And I can only say that I •• knowing him very well will do a great job in not only running a business but in being a good person to the community and working with the community to try to work out some of these problems. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Wroobel. Erik Tallbe.

MR. TALLBE:

Let me be the first person today to say good afternoon. My name's Erik Tallbe, President of South Shore Water Fowlers Association whose membership consists of approximately 400 members.

I'm here today alone due to the short notice that was given to me. But I do want to tell you and advise you that all of our members do strongly support both resolutions to reopen the Suffolk Trap and Range. Skeet Range. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you sir. Anthony Castelli. Did he leave? Am I saying it wrong? Not here. All right. A. Grimald.

MR. GRIMALD:

Hello. My name is Anthony Grimald. I live in Suffolk County. I'm a resident. I fully support both resolutions to reopen the trap and skeet range. Shooters need a place to shoot also and also have rights. As a Suffolk County resident, I fully approve of both resolutions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you, sir. Christine Marshall.

MS. MARSHALL:

Good afternoon. My name is Christine Marshall and I'm here to support both resolutions for the trap and skeet to be reopened. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Sal Abatemarco.

MR. ABATEMARCO:

You know, after you messed it up, I didn't pay attention. It's all right. I'm here to also support the •• both resolutions for the trap and skeet shooting range. Salvator Abatemarco. I'm sorry. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I have Johan McConnell who spoke before but wanted to speak on another resolution pertaining to trap and skeet, I believe.

MS. McCONNELL:

Yes. It's the resolution 2228. If you approve 2216, you'll approve the

licensing agreement. And sitting here I have listened to various members of the audience get up and say that they were privileged to sit on a committee that worked. John Cushman and another gentleman were privileged to sit in on a committee or listen to a committee and goals and objectives were developed for this project.

I presently sit on a county committee right now. I consider it a privilege to sit on the committee. And it's interesting that on the committee that I sit on, there is representation from the residents. I would like to know on the committee that established the goals and objective or established the RFP or the committee that the gentlemen spoke about, if there were any residents from the area that this will have the impact on.

And the second in hearing people speak and saying that there's no place to shoot, I understand there's a shooting range in Calverton and the Town of Brookhaven has a range. But my question is about the committee who established the goals, were there any residents sitting on this committee?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. Thank you, ma'am. Commissioner, you wanted to comment on that?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

The RFP committee is set up as directed by standard operating procedure in the County Code. It tell us who we have to have. I think we have to have a representative from the Legislature, from the County Executive's Office, someone who has expertise in the field that the contract pertains to. It does not call for residential input.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Thank you. William Marshall. Is Mr. Marshall to speak? Mr. Cushman?

MR. CUSHMAN:

Yes. I apologize. I was just •• is it appropriate for me to respond to some

of the things that we just said?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

No, nor is it necessary.

MR. CUSHMAN:

Okay. I saw the same speaker get up twice. I thought it was appropriate. I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There were two cards by the same name with different resolutions on them. Most people combine their comments on two resolutions. I gave her the opportunity to speak on the second resolution.

MR. CUSHMAN:

I just wanted to answer the lady's question.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Are you Mr. Marshall?

MR. MARSHALL:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay.

MR. MARSHALL:

Good morning. My name is William Marshall, Farmingdale, New York. I'm former Budget Director for Nassau County. So, I'm aware that the opening of this range would have a revenue impact on Suffolk County. And it's been closed for a long, long time. So there's no revenue that came in. So, please consider that. The reopening of this range is a revenue source for Suffolk County. A revenue source that both Nassau and Suffolk Countys always are looking for. So, again, that's my point here. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. I have one last speaker on •• back to the horse question. Karen

Halpern. And then we can move the agenda.

MS. HALPERN:

Good afternoon. My name is Karen Halpern. And I'm speaking to you this morning as a member of the horse community; and also in support of resolution 2217 to appropriate funds for the renovation of Southaven Stables. I also am a horse community member of the Equestrian •• the Suffolk County Equestrian Advisory Council. And I'm on the Board of Directors of the Suffolk Nassau Horsemen's Association.

I also ride; have horses and my family rides. And I'm speaking to today to request your support because it's not only the equestrians and the equestrian families in Suffolk County that will benefit from this, but by renovating the stables, I think, it would benefit everyone in Suffolk County. For the horse people and horse kids that ride and show and own their own horses, it gives them a tremendous •• I know from my children, sense of responsibility, maturity. The horse shows have taught them sportsmanship.

My kids and many of the horse kids have volunteered in different activities with their horses. They volunteer to ride in parades. They go to Timothy Hill every year; things that all of the community •• loves to see horses.

Also, it's part of the character of our parks. I have live her on Blydenburg Park. And every weekend when I take my horses out in the park, there are people walking, fishing enjoying. And they enjoy seeing the horses. That's part of being in a park.

So, for those reasons and also I do believe that if Southaven is renovated and can become a facility where shows can be drawn, there would be a tremendous economic benefit to the •• really to all the merchants in the area. People will come for gas, hotels, restaurants, you know, the list goes on and on.

I know my family goes off the Island every summer because we have no show facilities here. And the prime facility now is _Saugertese_ New York. And _Saugertese_ was put on the map actually by the horseshow community. So you cannot get a room now in (Saugertese_ if you could

believe that on a weekend. And ten years ago I think people said \"Saugertese\", what the heck is that?

So, I would urge the support for the renovation of the stables. And, again, not only has a horse person, but also as a Suffolk County resident. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. Thank you. Let's just see if we can get Legislator Nowick back. All right. That's our last speaker. I just want to make sure I have •• I have a quorum. I want Lynne here. So, can you get Lynne? Please, just give us a moment.

Commissioner, is there anything else you need to apprise us of?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I've got comments on several of the resolutions. Your pleasure. Maybe it would be more time effective to just answer your questions if you have them when you get to them. But either way.

TABLED PRIME

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. I want to take some things out of order, but •• why don't •• let's go to •• let's go from the beginning. Let's go. So, we're going to move the agenda.

1657, (adopting Local Law, a Local Law to amend the composition of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission to ensure geographic diversity).

LEG. LINDSAY:

Motion to table.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Motion by the sponsor to table, second by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Any opposed? **Tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

1736 (linking County park fees for veterans to park fees for senior citizens)

LEG. COOPER:

Are we still waiting a ruling from the Parks Trustees?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

The trustees have not acted on either of these discount items while we're researching fees across a broad spectrum and coming back with a recommendation.

LEG. COOPER:

Okay. There's a motion to table. Second by myself. All in favor? **1736 is tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

1966, authorizing a license agreement (with Montauk Observatory, Inc and accepting a donation of a telescope) This has been changed. There's no donation of a telescope. The license agreement with Montauk Observatory, Incorporated at Third House, the Theodore Roosevelt County Park, I had tabled this awaiting CEQ and Park Trustees and also to change the title. So, the new title is not what you have on the agenda. It eliminates the donation part. And this has been approved by CEQ. It was •• Type II Action?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I believe so.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Type II action. And the Parks Trustees unanimously approved it as well. So, I'm going to make a motion at this point to approve.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second by Legislator Cooper.

LEG. LINDSAY:

In the the resolution before us, there's a corrected copy.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

The title's still wrong.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I know, but it's not the amended •• I don't know why title wasn't fixed on the agenda. All right? All in favor? Any opposed? **1966 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

LEG. COOPER:

And I'd like to co•sponsor, please.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Thank you.

INTRODUCTORY PRIME

2193, authorizing an agreement for use of Peconic Dunes County Park by Cornell Cooperative Extension. I'll make a motion. Is there a

second?

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second by Legislator Nowick. All in favor? Any opposed? **2193 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

2201 (amending the 2005 Operating Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with a cash control pilot program at the Suffolk County West Sayville Golf Course)

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to table.

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion by the sponsor to table. And a second by Legislator Nowick.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Could I ask why?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Just because •• I think it's good idea.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah. I'm actually working out some details. And we might go with a different approach and just do it as a more of a policy and let the department figure out where and how to place different cameras.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Well, good. But is the department going to have enough funding to make the changes to implement the system?

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, I put •• I think there was •• it was either 150 or 250,000 in this year's budget to do it. So ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

In '05?

LEG. ALDEN:

Right.

LEG. LINDSAY:

But this resolution is to appropriate that money, no?

LEG. ALDEN:

Right. But we still have to work out this •• there's definitely some fine details that have to be worked out.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I'll yield to the sponsor. It's just, I think, it's a good idea. And I don't think it should die.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. All in favor of tabling? Any opposed? **2201 is tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

2202 (amending the 2005 Operating Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the installation of cash control and security at Suffolk County Park facilities) Same motion, same second. All in favor? Any Opposed? **2202 is tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

2207, modifying new investment policy for Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Trust Fund.

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a motion to approve. I'll second it.

LEG. NOWICK:

Explanation.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Explanation. Should we bring up Mr. Mallamo for this? Probably.

MR. MALLAMO:

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. This resolution continues the investment policy that we've had running for at least the last decade. We renew this each year. It guarantees the museum an income stream of 1.2 million or \$100,000 a month from the endowment.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Why does it say modifying, though? Are you changing it at all?

MR. MALLAMO:

We're not changing it from what it's been for the past three years.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

So, it's mis•titled.

LEG. ALDEN:

Not really because with your indulgence ••

MR. MALLAMO:

I think the modification is we're extending it for a year.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right.

MR. MALLAMO:

Because it expires on December 31st. And if we don't renew this, we won't have that income on January 1st which would ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion by Legislator Cooper, second by myself. All in favor? Any opposed? Approved. **(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

2216, appropriating funds in connection with improvements at the Trap and Skeet Shooting Range at Southaven County Park. Is there a motion?

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I have a motion by Legislator Alden. Is there a second?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a second by Legislator Lindsay. On the motion, Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah. I would like the Commissioner to go through what this appropriation is going to be used for, you know, what are we doing here? What's the long •term plan for this facility?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

The appropriation is to allow us to work with our new vendor, if you approve that, on a number of different aspects of it. One is restructuring the kinds of sports that happen there toward having an attractive facility, and one that is the best neighbor we can be to some of the people you heard from today, minimizing the noise. We know we can't get rid of it or eliminate it. But we think we can minimize it. It is to deal with some of the environmental issues, clean up some of the old lead shot, things like that.

This money and the requirements that will be in the contract for this operator deal with a whole gamut of issues on the site. And we're determined to do the best we can to make it environmentally acceptable in the neighborhood.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Does the contract with •• or the proposed contract with the new vendor, is there any responsibility in that contract for either noise mitigation or environmental cleanup?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

There is a responsibility to help the County resolve those issues to the best of our ability in both areas; both noise and environmental cleanup.

LEG. LINDSAY:

But there isn't a requirement that they make any capital investments in either one of those?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yes, there is. They have to put up •• I think it's a quarter of a million dollars.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair? While not a member of the Committee, will you suffer just a ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I will suffer.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Go ahead, Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I've listened to the debate. I'm just curious, I guess, as far as some of the generic information. In the last year that the range was in operation under a previous vendor, approximately how many folks did •• came through it? Do we have any idea? I mean, a thousand people a year? A hundred people a year?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We have an idea, but I'm not sure I have the numbers with me. I don't think I have them here with me.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Is it •• is it set up to operate all year long, you know? Trap and skeet, I guess, doesn't make any difference whether it's, you know, 30 or 80 out.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

It would a be year•round operation, yes. That's the intent.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And does the RFP contemplate •• I have never been to the range. So I don't know how it's set up. But would it be basically utilizing whatever existing structures are there? In other words, is it for what's there or will it be modifications, I guess, of, you know, the property area or ancillary buildings, storage areas, anything like that?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

It's essentially on the same foot print that it has been on. There will be •• as far as permanent structures and parking go, that will remain the same. There will be changes to the configuration of the various shooting stations. And there may be some new technology used to both minimize noise and have interesting sports on the facility. But those I wouldn't consider permanent installations that we'll be changing.

LEG. KENNEDY:

How close is the horse barn area or the equestrian area to the shooting range?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

It's a few hundred yards.

LEG. KENNEDY:

It is?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yeah.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And so is there any kind of a buffer area that's outlined for the shooting range itself?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Between those two facilities?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Those two and, I guess, just in the area where, you know, the shooters would be shooting at. Is there an additional couple of hundred yards or somethings's that considered dead space or ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Well, there's a wooded area, wooded buffer, if you will between the shooting range and the equestrian facilities. And the equestrian facilities are at a distance that •• the distance lead shot travels is not an issue.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And has the equestrian •• were the two facilities closed for basically the same period of time? Or were they both operational? Did you ever have any interchange or any experience, any history between the range itself and the horse barns? Or did they •• were they able to exist?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

The range and the equestrian facility operated for decades side by side.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

The range closed, I think, in 2002. And the stables closed six, eight months ago.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And the the RFP, the way it is set up, is there some kind of a projected minimum income that the vendor has to go ahead and turn over to the County? Or is it just based on some percentage of, you know, folks who use it? A percent comes to the County? How is that tailored?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I didn't check that detail in this contract before I came here, but generally there's a flat basic fee plus a percentage for gross business.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So, in other words, they pay the County a figure of X for the exclusive right to operate a range. And then depending upon total number of usage there may be an additional percentage back?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

That's generally the way it's done, yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Contract will be for how long as far as duration goes initially? Two years?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

No, it's longer than that.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Ten years? Five years?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

It's a ten•year contract.

LEG. KENNEDY:

It's a ten•year contract we're contemplating with this individual?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Let me just •• on the contract, we went through the RFP process as dictated by Legislature specific to this facility. We received just the one bid. That's part of the reason we're back here before you to get that approved. But we were very, very fortunate to find a highly responsible, professional operator here. And I think that will solve a lot of the problems we've had to deal with the past. Some of the past operators were less than professional and failed in operating the place. So, we're fortunate to get the person we have.

LEG. KENNEDY:

How many operators were solicited in the initial RFP process?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

There were probably a dozen outreach efforts to get people interested.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And just this one individual elected to bid?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yes. There were several inquiries, but he's the only one who submitted a bid by the deadline.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

You're welcome. All right. So, we had a motion and a second on 2216

appropriating funds. All in favor? Any opposed? **2216 is approved.**
(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)

2217, appropriating funds in connection with renovations of Southaven Country Park Stables.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a motion by Legislator Alden, second by Legislator Cooper. On the motion, Legislator Alden or Lindsay? Lindsay. Sorry.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Commissioner, could you •• I know that we had trouble with a vendor here as well. And we're appropriating funds in connection with the renovations. Have we started the process of seeking a new vendor?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We haven't yet. We have engaged through DPW a consultant to analyze both our situation and of the market in Suffolk County for these kinds of operations. Whether we can reuse the existing facility or have to build a new one, all those factors are his charge to advise us on the answers to. What kind of facilities whether it's show or whether it still has rides for the public and things like that; training and education. That has yet to be resolved. Once we get his recommendation, we'll use that in our experience to go out for proposals to find an operator. And we can't extend any of these funds until we have a signed approved license.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Is this planning money or planning and ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I believe it's a combination.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Combination. Okay.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Any further question, Legislator Lindsay?

LEG. LINDSAY:

No.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. So, there's a motion and a second. All in favor? Any opposed?
2217 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)

2228, authorizing a license agreement with Hunter Sports, Incorporated for Trap and Skeet Shooting Range at Southaven County Park. Is there a motion?

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a motion to approve by Legislator Alden, second by ••

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

•• Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Any opposed? **2228 is approved.**
(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)

2229, authorizing use of County Historic buildings in the Yaphank Historic District by the Yaphank Historical Society. I'll make a motion.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second by •• I'm sorry. Legislator Lindsay seconds. And on the motion, if we can hear from Commissioner Foley.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We're on 2229?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

2229.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

This is a license between the local not-for-profit group who operates several buildings, the Yaphank Historic District. The history with them has been very good. They manage, maintain •• maintain in a small way anything large the County has to support them. But I think most importantly, they keep these properties and their history accessible to the public in a way that we couldn't do without them.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. So, there's a motion and a second. All in favor? Any opposed?
2229 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)

2231, authorizing use of Meadow Croft, the John E. Roosevelt Estate by Bayport Heritage Association. There's a motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Any opposed?
Approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)

2236, creating a petty cash fund for Suffolk County Department of Parks Recreation and Conservation.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a motion by Legislator Alden, second by Legislator Cooper. On the motion.

LEG. LINDSAY:

One question. We never had a petty cash fund before the in the Parks

Department?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Well, the Parks does have a petty cash fund. In fact, we have closed some of them. This is a petty cash fund of a different animal. This allows the Parks to have the starting bank they need at every cash collection point each morning. And it allows the headquarters building in a park to maintain a bank to make change from.

And this corrects past practice where at some point in the beginning of the season they just pulled some cash out of the revenue stream to facilitate these things and then put it back in at the end of the year. It's not the right way to do it.

This is part of our continuing efforts to improve the internal controls of cash handling in the Department. This is the correct way to do it. It establishes the fund. Everybody knows what it is. It has a set limit. And we use this to both make change and make sure they have a starting bank each morning.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All in favor? Any opposed?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair, give me just one quick question.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Oh, I'm sorry. Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah. Having dealt with cash, you know, over the course of the years out in the Clerk's Office, I'm sure that you •• you know, the answer is yes to this but, I guess I'll ask it, there is some kind of a locked or secured place in each one of the park areas where you're maintaining the petty cash?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

There better be. I have said there will be many, many times. When I find out there's not ••

LEG. KENNEDY:

So it's like a safe or some kind of an interior locked, secured area with limited access as far as keys and things such as that?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yes, absolutely.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. All right.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Again, all in favor? Any opposed? **2236 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

All right. Moving onto 2274, we already took care of that out of order.

2278, this is to reappoint member of the Suffolk County Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Miles Borden. There is a motion by Legislator Nowick, second by Legislator Cooper. Do we need to see this person? Or •• we already did. He already was here. Absolutely right. On the motion, Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I certainly don't object to this at all. But is this a policy change in reappointments? Have we been consistently requesting reappointments? I know on new people, but, you know, I was, you know, a little bit troubled by Mr. Rogers who has served on the Vanderbilt for many, many years and, you know, have been for years. I don't want to, you know •• do we have a set policy on reappointments?

LEG. ALDEN:

I can address that just going back eight years. Legislative Personnel that used to be a separate committee. And then it was part of Consumer Protection. And what we did at that point, and that was about six years ago, we •• if they were a reappointment, they didn't have to come down. But a lot of times we'd pass around the resume and just asked whoever they served for, if it was up at the Vanderbilt, did they show up and things like that. And then if it was a new appointment, we required them to come back so that there could be questions asked. So, unless somebody expressed an interest in having somebody come down that was an reappointment just for specific questions, we never required them to come back. But that's been the •• and it's not in writing, but that's been the policy that we've been trying to follow.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

What's the term on this appointment? Is it seven years or •• these Vanderbilt positions are four year terms? I'm sorry. This is Parks Trustees.

MS. KNAPP:

His term would extend to November 30th, 2010. He's set to expire today, November 30th, 2005. And this would extend him on the Parks Trustees for another five years.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

So, it's a five year term? You know, I think as a •• I mean, we don't have a particular policy on this, but it's good practice on a long term to have somebody come back before us and get their input, what they've been doing and if they're productive.

LEG. NOWICK:

I think just for the record, he has only been serving a few months. He was finishing out somebody else's terms. So, he was maybe a few months ago.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yeah, in this case it's not necessary.

LEG. LINDSAY:

No, I was just troubled by Mr. Rogers.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

You felt he didn't need to come here.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yeah, I understand that.

LEG. COOPER:

But it's true. I mean ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

But there's going to be new people on the Legislature ••

LEG. COOPER:

Our policy has been that it's not necessary for reappointments.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I still think it's a good idea to •• on a long term appointment I think it's good for them to come in front of the Legislature and tell us what they've been doing on the board, why they want to stay, what their vision is. But we don't have a set policy. All right. So, we have a motion and a second on 2278. All in favor? Any opposed? **2278 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

2279, we had taken out of order earlier, but we never took a vote on it. So, now it's in front of us on the agenda. This is **to appoint Ronald Parr as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission**. Let's get a new motion. So, we have a motion by Legislator Nowick, second by Legislator Cooper.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

On the motion, Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

I've actually had an opportunity to speak with Ms. Gray and informed her that at the end of her term that she wasn't going to be reconsidered for appointment. And I think she's comfortable with that. So ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

Good job.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Good job.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

The story has a happy ending. That was honorable. Okay. So, we have a motion and a second to appoint Ronald Parr. All in favor? Any opposed? And we have one abstention. Is it a recusal or an abstention?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Abstain.

LEG. ALDEN:

We only have abstentions.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

So we have Legislator Lindsay abstaining. **And it is approved. (Vote: 4 •0•1•1. Leg. Lindsay abstained. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

On 2280, Legislator Cooper was not in the room when we took that vote out of order. So, I'd like to give him the opportunity to put his name with the majority.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to take it out of order. I mean motion to reconsider.

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

That's fine. Okay. Motion to re•consider and a second. All in favor? Okay. So, 2280 is before us again. Is there a motion to approve?

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a motion by Legislator Nowick, second by Legislator Alden. Legislator Cooper? I'm sorry, you wanted to second it? That's fine. Second by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Any opposed? **Okay. 2280 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present**

LEG. COOPER:

And I'd like to co•sponsor, please.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. **2300 is amending the 2005 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the restoration of historic structures at Blydenburgh County Park.**

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a motion and a second. Motion by Legislator Nowick, second by Legislator Alden.

LEG. KENNEDY:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

On the motion, I will recognize, although he's not a member of this committee, Legislator Kennedy because I think he has a word or two to share on this.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Again, thank you, Mr. Chair, for the opportunity to go ahead. My interest obviously is in seeing this move forward. I've had extensive discussions with Commissioner Foley. As the members of the Committee must •• may know, the Blydenburgh historic district actually has been •• has structures that are over 200 years old. The County has had the building since the early 1960s. And due to a variety of different circumstance, not the least of which was some of the weather this past October, several of the buildings are in serious decay and disrepair. And there's an immediate need to go ahead and fund some substantial improvements. Do you have any comments you'd like to make, Mr. Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Well, what you said is essentially accurate both because the buildings were in •• some of the buildings were in tough shape when the County acquired them and never repaired. And because they've not been adequately maintained before this, there is an immediate need to do some repairs.

We've been working with DPW who has hired consultants to organize the emergency repairs to the mill which is part of the district. And we're doing some inhouse emergency fortification of the weld house. Those emergency responses really expose the need for some major repairs and renovation to these places. And that's what this money would do.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mr. Chair, I'd appreciate the support of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN;

Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Cost here is half a million dollars.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Cost, we don't know for certain. That's our estimate at this point.

LEG. LINDSAY:

But the appropriating resolution is for half a million dollars.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Right. Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

And it's a proper offset, Budget Review? We're taking it from Gabreski?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Yes.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, that's correct. And that project wasn't moving forward this year. Gabresky Airport project.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

So, we had a motion and a second on 2300. All in favor? Any opposed?
2300 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)

2309, adopting local law authorizing a license and special fund for the Scully estate. We have a public hearing coming up on Tuesday for that. So, I'll make a motion to table, second by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Any opposed? **2309 is tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

2327, appointing Gregory Dawson as the Parks Trustees. We're going to need to have him here, which we will, at the next committee meeting.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Make a motion to table.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

A motion by the sponsor, Legislator Lindsay, to table, second by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Any opposed? **Resolution 2327 is tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Carpenter not present)**

We have one Sense Resolution. **This a sense 76, sense of the Legislature in support of local control of shoreline driving permits.**

LEG. ALDEN:

Handled by the Parks Department?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a state bill that would •• there's actually been a challenge to beach driving made by some, I think, Westchester Assemblyman. This is a •• there's a bill that's sponsored by Legislator _Thiel_ as well as some others that would protect the right by basically giving those decisions to those municipalities I think have coastal erosion, hazard authority. Coastal erosion hazard act authority under the state. They have coastal plans in place basically. It's a good bill. So, I'll make a •• I'd like to make the motion. I'd like to approve on Sense 76. Is there a second?

LEG. ALDEN:

I'll make a second, but •• so, I'll second it. But I have a question. So how does that affect us in Suffolk County? Our coastal management plan is part of New York State's coastal management plan.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. It would affect each town. So Brookhaven decides how to best manage its own beaches. Easthampton would decide, Southampton would decide.

LEG. ALDEN:

So, our Parks Department doesn't have to go through a licensing and a permit process for scuba diving and for beach •• beach buggy permits and

things like that? Because that's already in place. Like if you went it over in Islip, you have to go to the Town of Islip.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. I'm not sure it would apply to the County, which wouldn't be the subject of local zoning, I don't believe, in terms of beach driving. But my guess is ••

LEG. ALDEN:

We offer beach permits, though, right now.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Smith Point.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. So this would protect the County's ability to manage its coast line.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

That's accurate.

LEG. ALDEN:

So more of a status quo. It's a status quo type of ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

So some, you know, Upstate New York Legislator doesn't take away your right to go fishing on the beach, yes. It's important to protect your right.

LEG. ALDEN:

It's status quo.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes, it is. On the east end many of the towns have trustees. I think Brookhaven even has town trustees that pre•date town government. These are colonial patents. And they've been stewarding the beaches for many, many years. I think it's important to reaffirm those rights to manage our

beaches.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes, Counsel.

MS. KNAPP:

I think what prompted the sponsor was apparently there was a •• one House bill in the State Assembly that would give DEC exclusive jurisdiction over permits; beach driving permits.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yes, that sounds right.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. So, we've lost some Legislators. I don't have a quorum right now. We're going to need one more vote. Just bear with us a moment. All in favor? Any opposed? All right. So, **Sense 76 is approved. (Vote: 4 •0•0•2. Leg. Carpenter and Leg. Cooper not present)**

And, Commissioner, while you're still here, do we have any other questions for the Commissioner? I'll ask you the usual question, Third House, when are we •• we're beginning work on Third House in Montauk.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

The latest report I heard is they have resolved the problem with the one specialty bidder they had. And I think everything is coming together. I don't have a construction date.

I will remind everybody that tonight is the Big Duck lighting for the holidays. You're all invited.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

What was the answer to •• the two second answer.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I believe they've resolved all the problems they had with bidders. And they're working on executing contracts. I'm not certain of the actual start date.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. And I'm going to ask about the duck. When is the duck moving? Do we have a date for the migration of the Big Duck?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

The duck will be lit for the holidays this evening at seven PM.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I just want to clarify the record on sense 76, that I made the motion on Sense 76 and Legislator Alden made the second. Any other questions for our Park Commissioner? Okay. Thank you, sir. We are adjourned.

(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:00 PM)

Denotes spelled phonetically